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Ministry of Advanced Education

PROVINCE SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

VICTORIA – The provincial government is providing $200,000 to the Harmony Foundation for the development of a leadership training program for sustainable community development in China, announced Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell today.

Harmony Foundation, the Environmental Management College of China and the National Training Center for Mayors of China plan to train China's leading urban decision makers to develop the co-operative civic planning, development and management necessary to achieve sustainable community development in China.

The Harmony Foundation is a not-for-profit environmental education organization that creates innovative environmental and community training programs. Harmony is recognized internationally for its leadership and 20-year track record in developing and delivering successful sustainability education and training initiatives leading to practical results in communities, schools, workplaces and homes around the world.

"By supporting China's sustainable community development, this project will build invaluable relationships and a unique network with an important provincial partner," said Coell. "This funding will help promote the exchange of ideas and expertise in sustainability and improved environmental practices between B.C. and China."

The Ministry of Advanced Education is providing $75,000, the Climate Action Secretariat is providing $75,000, and the B.C. Trade Commissioner and the Ministry of Community Services are providing $25,000 each.

"The provincial government's leadership in sustainable community development will benefit human health and the environment in B.C. and around the world," said Michael Bloomfield, Harmony's founder and executive director.

Over the next three years, Harmony Foundation with its partners, will develop and implement the curriculum to train mayors and other local Chinese government officials, environmental protection bureau managers, civil society groups and urban development practitioners. Its goal will be to help communities learn to create and sustain patterns of human development that protect the environment and human health, reduce poverty, create prosperity and improve the quality of life for current and future generations.

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